EXTERMINATOR — GUIDE

Rodent control: inspection, exclusion and safe cleanup

Remove access and food sources, agree on trapping and use CDC cleanup precautions.

Updated November 10, 2026

CDC identifies droppings and gnaw marks as signs of rodents. Take note of where you find them. Ask the company to inspect the building and distinguish old evidence from current activity. Do not handle droppings to test their age.

Ask for a building plan

CDC's rodent guidance focuses on removing food, water and shelter, sealing access and trapping. A quote should say which of these tasks the company will perform. Ask what you or the building manager must do.

Inspect storage, waste handling and food access with the company. Ask it to mark suspected entry points and explain how it will confirm activity. Request an exclusion scope that identifies each repair, material and access limit. A treatment visit and a repair project may be separate purchases.

Agree on trap and bait management

Ask where traps will be placed, who checks them and who removes captures. Tell the company about children, pets and areas used for food. Ask how equipment will be protected from accidental contact.

If the plan uses a pesticide, ask for the product label and why that approach fits the site. Ask about inaccessible spaces and how the company handles a rodent that dies there. Keep pesticide directions separate from general trapping advice.

Do not dry sweep rodent waste

CDC's cleanup guidance, accessed 2026-11-10, says not to vacuum or sweep rodent urine, droppings or nesting material before disinfecting. That can put contaminated particles into the air. CDC recommends rubber or plastic gloves and wet disinfection before wiping up.

The CDC page says to wet droppings with disinfectant and let them soak for **5 minutes or according to the disinfectant label**. Read the full linked guidance for your situation. Do not mix cleaning products or copy a dilution without checking the product instructions.

CDC identifies heavy infestations as a situation needing extra precautions. Ask who is qualified to clean the area and whether cleanup is included. Pest removal does not automatically include contaminated insulation or building repairs.

Close the loop

Keep a log of trap checks and new evidence by location. Ask for a return inspection after exclusion work. If activity continues, have the company reassess access and food sources. Do not assume another bait placement resolves an open entry point.

Sources

All sources below were fetched and checked on 2026-11-10. Dates are access dates.

- CDC, Controlling Wild Rodent Infestations. Accessed 2026-11-10.
- CDC, How to Clean Up After Rodents. Accessed 2026-11-10.

Frequently asked questions

Does this guide replace a local inspection?

No. Confirm the pest, current licence and treatment scope with the company and relevant authority.